

*"How to Open Blind Spiritual Eyes" Pt. 1 James Crawford
Series – How to Open Blind Spiritual Eyes www.fatherheartchurch.com*

"How To Open Blind Spiritual Eyes"

Introduction

As I sought the Lord for this week's Sunday sermon, He impressed upon me to release the following prophetic sermon.

Spiritual deception is spreading like wildfire into every nation via the internet. But so is the gospel of Jesus Christ via the internet. Satan has his minions spreading great darkness, yet God is calling you and I to be His representatives of His great light.

If we comply with this call of God on our lives, we can extricate our loved ones and many others from spiritual deception. We will be glad we helped them in this age and when we stand before the Lord in eternity.

In this sermon the Spirit of God will train us on how to open blind spiritual eyes.

Isaiah 60

1 Arise, shine; For your light has come! And the glory of the Lord is risen upon you. **2 For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and deep darkness** the people; **but the Lord** will arise over you, and **His glory will be seen upon you.**

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What? The glory will be seen on us? Exactly! But why? So that when people on earth are blinded in the last days, the glory of the Lord that rests on us will attract them to the Lord and they can be healed.

1. God Loves to Heal Spiritual Blindness

God is a caring Father by nature. He always has been. In the Old Testament and the New Testament, our Father has always been attentive to our needs.

Isaiah 42:16

16 I will bring the blind by a way they did not know; **I will lead them** in paths they have not known. **I will make darkness light** before them, And crooked places straight. These things I will do for them, and not forsake them.

When Jesus came on the scene, He demonstrated this same level of care and concern for all the world who were in deep darkness.

John 10:11

I am the good shepherd. **The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.**

Matthew 9:36

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When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.

Some of those who are deceived carry loads of grief, shame and panic. We will help the Lord heal and deliver them of this emotional and mental strain.

2. Help The Willing See

Some people are not willing to work their way out of deception. This will frustrate immature freedom fighters. This especially hurts our hearts when it is our loved ones who won't come into the light.

Jesus said there comes a point in which we must shake the dust off our feet and go to the next person whom God highlights. Whether we must move on from ministering to our loved ones or a stranger, we must learn to focus our efforts on the next man up.

Now be careful here. Don't cut your loved ones off completely. Simply love them without expecting them to yield to God right now. If you are kind to them and never forceful and antagonizing, you may win their hearts later.

Luke 9:5

5 And **whoever** will **not receive you**, when you go out of that city, **shake off the very dust from your feet.**

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People Have Blinded Themselves - God Has Blinded Some

Matthew 13

13 Therefore **I speak to them in parables**, because **seeing they do not see**, and hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand. 14 And in them the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled, which says: 'Hearing you will hear and shall not understand and seeing you will see and not perceive;

15 **For the hearts** of these people have grown dull. Their ears are hard of hearing, and **their eyes they have closed**, lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, lest they should understand with their hearts and turn, so that I should heal them.' 16 But blessed are your eyes for they see, and your ears for they hear;

2 Thessalonians 2

11 And for this reason **God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie**, 12 that **they all may be condemned** who **did not believe the truth** but **had pleasure in unrighteousness**.

3. How Sin Blinds People

The further people follow us out of their sin, the more they can see in the Spirit and be relieved of the ill effects of spiritual blindness. Blindness is a direct result of sin's effect. For example, a prophecy in Zephaniah 1:17 says, "I will bring distress upon men, and they shall walk like blind men, because

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they have sinned against the LORD."

Sin causes people to grope spiritually at noon just as the blind grope in darkness (Deuteronomy 28:29). Sin puts us in darkness as blindness does, but spiritual darkness is a far worse darkness than its physical counterpart.

Of course not all sins are created equal. Some sins open the door to minimal deception while other sins open the door to massive deception.

I felt a leading from the Lord to mention this. Beware of the temptation to deceive or manipulate others. Do not control others either. Do not be argumentative. Do not harm other people. Do not be vulgar. Do not treat others with contempt. Do not put others down. Do not commit any crime.

4. Teach Them to Explore New Truths

If all you know is all you'll ever know how solid can you be? Some people still believe only what they were taught by their parents. That can be very dangerous if they were raised in a cult or false religion.

Matthew 5:6

"Blessed [joyful, nourished by God's goodness] are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness **[those who actively seek** right standing with God], for **they will be [completely] satisfied.**

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We must teach people to be pure and simple. Truth is only imparted to people who have pure motives. The Lord is giving people a Divine window of opportunity when we offer to teach them to open their hearts.

We must persistently point people to the Word of God and exhort them to read it for themselves.

We must read and agree with all of it, not just the good news that we find. God's judgment is avoided by many Christians and deception enters their walk with God as a result. This effects how they raise their children, how they live before God and which church they lead their family to.

5. False Apostles, False Religions & False Motives

False teachers and false apostles have been plentiful throughout the history of the church. They still infiltrate unsuspecting churches and have even led whole denominations into heresy and apostasy (see 1 Timothy 4:1–4). Scripture gives us clear warning if we will pay attention. First John 4:1 says, "Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world."

A false minister or a leader over a false religion always has false motives. They do not seek God for His will for their lives, and they presume to lead God's people.

False apostles can arise anywhere the Word of God does not reign supreme. From organized churches to home Bible studies, we must always be on guard against "new teachings" or "revelations" that are not subject to the "whole counsel of God" (Acts 20:27).

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6. Live Like Anna in the Temple

The Lord is inviting all people to abandon themselves to Him as Anna did. Over time, this will deliver people of all deception and spiritual blindness. Become a God-chaser if you have been walking in sin and spiritual darkness and bring everybody else with you!

Luke 2

36 Now there was one, Anna, a prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age and had lived with a husband seven years from her virginity;

37 and this woman was a widow of about eighty-four years, who did not depart from the temple, but served God with fastings and prayers night and day. 38 And coming in that instant she gave thanks to the Lord and spoke of Him to all those who looked for redemption in Jerusalem.

She never left the temple but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying" (Luke 2:37). After becoming a widow, Anna dedicated herself wholly to the Lord. She never left the temple in Jerusalem but spent her time worshiping, fasting, and praying.

It is possible that Anna was given living quarters at the temple because of her designation as prophetess, or she may have lived close by. What stands out is that her devotion was constant for the majority of her life, and her devotion was rewarded with an encounter with her Savior. Her many years of sacrifice and service were worth it all when she beheld the Messiah, the One for whom she had waited so long.

Anna is mentioned in the Bible as a prophetess and one of the people connected to Jesus' childhood. She was the daughter of Penuel from the

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tribe of Asher. Her name, which she shares with Hannah in the Old Testament, means "favor" or "grace."

All we know of her is found in three verses in the New Testament book of Luke. When Anna encounters the infant Jesus in the temple, we see that her life is indeed overflowing with favor and grace.